

Schools. I have rarely encountered an individual with the passion and enthusiasm that Gerry possesses—particularly as he is advocating for policies he believes will make a difference in educating our young people.

Gerry began his career as an educator—a science teacher—and soon moved into several administrative positions, including Superintendent of New Haven Public Schools. In 1983 he was tapped by then Governor Bill O'Neill to lead Connecticut's Department of Education. In fact, on the same day that Gerry was named Commissioner, the National Commission on Excellence in Education released its famous report, "A Nation at Risk," calling for the reform of the American public school system. With the release of the report Gerry saw a unique opportunity and soon implemented reforms that have changed the face of public education in Connecticut. He reformed curriculum and advocated for raising teacher salaries and attracting more qualified candidates to the profession. Perhaps most significantly, it was under his direction that Connecticut established a statewide, systematic test that would more accurately assess student progress. This testing resulted in identifying the academic problems afflicting racial minorities and low-income students nearly two decades before it was taken up at the federal level. The Connecticut Mastery Test celebrated its 25th Anniversary last year and continues to be the single biggest influence in shaping curriculum and has become a national model for student testing.

After his tenure as Commissioner at the Connecticut Department of Education, Gerry went on to serve as President of Wheelock College, Professor of Educational Leadership at the University of Connecticut, and was later appointed by President Clinton as the Assistant Secretary of Elementary and Secondary Education at the U.S. Department of Education. For the last decade, Gerry has led the National Association of Secondary School Principals, an organization which acts as the national voice for middle and high school principals, assistant principals, and aspiring school leaders. In each of the many positions he has held, his commitment and unique vision have led to invaluable improvements in our system of public education.

Dr. Gerald Tirozzi has enjoyed a remarkable career and has earned a distinguished reputation as a leader in education reform. As he prepares to leave his professional life, I am honored to have this opportunity to extend my sincere thanks for his invaluable contributions to our Nation and our children. His work has improved the quality of public education for millions of young people across our Nation and helped to better prepare them for their future success. Today, as he celebrates his retirement with family, friends, and colleagues, I wish him, his wife Sharman, his son Jeff, and his grandchildren, Jason and Kayla, the very best for many more years of health and happiness.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JO ANN EMERSON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 10, 2011

Mrs. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall Nos. 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285,

286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, and 298, I am not recorded because I was absent due to a natural disaster in Southern Missouri. Had I been present the week of May 2nd, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall Nos. 278, 279, 280, 285, 286, 290, 292, 293, 294, and 298. I would have voted "nay" on rollcall Nos. 281, 282, 283, 284, 287, 288, 289, 291, 295, 296, and 297.

TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF NORRIS GREGORY, JR.

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 10, 2011

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask Congress to pay tribute to Norris Gregory, Jr., a respected community member and San Bernardino's first black city councilman. Norris passed away at this home on April 21, 2011, at the age of 85.

Born on the Fort Riley military base, Norris was raised and began his education in Kansas. He received his Bachelor of Arts from Washburn University. He later completed his Master of Education at the University of Kansas. He also completed classes at University of California, Riverside and California State University at Los Angeles.

Norris was a prominent member of the San Bernardino community and he will be remembered for all that he gave to the local residents. He served as a member of many important civil organizations including the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and the American Legion. He was also a founding member of the San Bernardino Alumni chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi fraternity and a member of the Phi Delta Kappa national honorary educational fraternity. Kappa Alpha Psi fraternity honored Norris as Man of the Year.

Norris was perhaps best known for being San Bernardino's first black city councilman. He served two four-year terms in the Sixth Ward from 1967 to 1975, breaking San Bernardino's color barrier. Norris told the Black Voice News that "Schools were segregated, and most blacks were relegated to menial jobs. Blacks had no power and no voice in government . . . but you can make a difference. You can change the law."

San Bernardino has lost a trailblazer and a role model. Norris has been credited for paving the way for others like John Hobbs, Valerie Pope-Ludlam, Betty Dean Anderson, and Rikke Van Johnson. His wife, Salena Gregory, reflects, "He was a very good man. He did a lot for San Bernardino."

Salena and Gregory were married for 64 years. They had one son, the late Norris P. Gregory III, one granddaughter Jessica L.G. Tucker, and two great-grandsons, Jason and Justin Tucker. My thoughts and prayers, along with those of my wife, Barbara, and my children, Mayor Pro Tem Joe Baca Jr., Jeremy, Natalie, and Jennifer are with Norris' family at this time. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in honoring a local hero, Norris Gregory, Jr.

ALEXIS SCHOONMAKER

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 10, 2011

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Alexis Schoonmaker for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Alexis Schoonmaker is a 12th grader at Arvada West High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Alexis Schoonmaker is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Alexis Schoonmaker for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all her future accomplishments.

HONORING THE LIFE OF ANNE MANFREDI MACK

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 10, 2011

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of my dear friend Anne Manfredi Mack, who passed away April 22, 2011. I ask all my colleagues to join me in recognizing the many outstanding achievements of Anne during her lifetime.

Anne Mack touched the lives of many with grace and generosity. Anne's driven and compassionate nature laid the foundation for a legacy of inspiration to all who knew her.

With great compassion and a heart for service, Anne was a well known and dedicated public servant and longtime advocate for seniors and senior issues. After retiring from Lockheed, she dedicated her time to serving her community and the State of California. In 1998 she was elected to the California State Legislature. Because of her long standing commitment to the Senior Legislature, she was elected chair and had served in this position since 2006. In addition to her service on the Senior Legislature, Anne was a member of various state boards including the Senior Care Commission, Congress of California Seniors, and was Chair of the Advisory Council on Aging.

As an impressive 25-gallon blood donor and CPR instructor for over 20 years, Anne had a strong passion and dedication to helping those in her community. Anne's greatest source of pride and happiness, though, was her family—her six children, 12 grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren that survive her today. Anne always put family first, and will be remembered most for her smile, generosity, and passion for those who were less fortunate.

Mr. Speaker, while it is with great sadness, I am truly honored to recognize a woman who has had a profound impact on my wife Patti